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INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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EA DE RUMJIR 26673 145 1130
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Info R 251046Z MAY 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
SS TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
GPM INFO RUMTBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
SP RUMJDH/AMCONSUL HONG KONG
SC RUASTP/AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
SAH RUMJFS/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
L RUHHHQA/CINCPAC
4 STATE GRNC
SAL BT
IO C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 26673
P
USIA CINCPAC FOR POLAD
NSC
INR SUBJECT: KY TRIES FOR CHINESE VOTE.
CIA
NSA 1. PRIME MINISTER KY MADE A BID FOR THE OVERSEAS CHINESE
DOD VOTE LAST WEEK BY FAVORING THE RETURN TO THE CHINESE COMMUNITY OF
AID CONTROL OVER THEIR SCHOOL, HOSPITAL, AND OTHER PROPERTIES, WHICH b-1 ed
WERE TAKEN FROM THEM BY THE GVN IN 1960. IN A CONVERSATION

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1967 MAY 25 AM 8 22

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Lamberg DATE 12/7/81
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

PAGE 2 RUMJIR 26673 C O N F I D E N T I A L
RSR WITH OF THE CHINESE CONGREGATIONS
BOARD, KY SAID THAT HE WAS IN FAVOR OF, AND AGREED "IN PRINCIPLE"
TO THE RETURN OF THE FORMER CONGREGATION PROPERTIES. THE TIMING
OF THE RETURN WAS NOT CLEAR; KY TOLD THAT THE MATTER
WOULD HAVE TO BE CHECKED OUT FIRST WITH "SEVERAL MINISTRIES."

2. TOLD EMBOFF THAT KY DIDN'S ACTUALLY ASK FOR THE
CHINESE VOTE, BUT THAT IT WAS CLEAR FROM THE CONVERSATION
THAT THAT WAS WHAT KY HAD IN MIND. MAKING HIMSELF
EQUALLY CLEAR, TOLD KY THAT HE HOPED IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE
FOR THE PROPERTIES TO BE RETURNED BEFORE THE ELECTION.
SEEMS QUITE OPTIMISTIC. HE THINKS THAT KY PROBABLY
CHECKED HIS IDEAS OUT WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT
BEFORE TALKING WITH HIM, AND HAS MADE THE NECESSARY PREPARATIONS
FOR THE MOVE.

3. ONE PROBLEM REMAINS TO BE RESOLVED ON THE CHINESE SIDE:
THE FACT THAT THE CONGREGATIONS NO LONGER EXIST AS LEGAL
ENTITIES, AND THUS CANNOT OWN PROPERTY. TO RESOLVE THIS
PROBLEM, IS CALLING A MEETING OF CONGREGATION LEADERS

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PAGE 3 RUMJIR 26673 C O N F I D E N T I A L
BEFORE THE END OF MAY TO DISCUSS THE FORMATION OF SOME KIND OF "WELFARE ASSOCIATION OF VIETNAMESE OF CHINESE ANCESTRY" WHICH COULD RECEIVE BACK THE FORMER CONGREGATION PROPERTIES. THE NEW WELFARE ASSOCIATION WOULD PROBABLY HAVE SUBSIDIARY GROUPS WHICH WOULD COORESPOND TO EACH FORMER CONGREGATION, THUS CREATING AN ORGANIZATIONAL PATTERN NOT TOO DIFFERENT FROM THAT WHICH EXISTED BEFORE 1960.

4. COMMENT: THERE ARE PERHAPS 500,000 OVERSEAS CHINESE OF VOTING AGE IN SOUTH VIET-NAM, AND A VERY LARGE PERCENTAGE OF THEM WOULD BE INCLINED TO VOTE FOR ANY CANDIDATE WHO COULD CLAIM CREDIT FOR RETURNING THE CONGREGATION PROPERTIES. SOME WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY VOTE FOR KY ANYWAY, BUT IF KY DOES SUCCEED IN EFFECTING THE RETURN BEFORE THE ELECTION, HE WILL PROBABLY ASSURE HIMSELF OF A LARGE BLOCK OF VOTES.

GP-3.

BUNKER

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